

While this assignment was designed for graduate-level law students, nonetheless, it serves as an excellent example of a research-based assignment. It evaluates students not on the final product (Part B, not seen here), but on all of the steps and processes between the assignment and the final paper. Students are asked to document their research, down to the sources and keywords they use to find information, and to reflect on both their research successes and their areas for improvement.



### Part A - Research Journal (60 Marks)

#### Instructions

As you research and analyze this problem, you are required to keep a research journal that describes your research process. Your journal should provide details about the research process that you used to solve the legal problem. An excellent journal will demonstrate effective research techniques and a mastery of the legal research resources covered in class or in the required readings. The page limit for this part is **five (5) pages** and you may use point form. Your journal should include the following:

- **Preliminary Analysis.** Before beginning your research, identify:
  - the relevant facts;
  - the legal issue(s);
  - jurisdiction;
  - possible search terms or keywords related to the problem;
  - explain how the facts influence your research strategy; and
  - types of primary law that may apply.
- **Search for Secondary Sources.** Indicate the relevant secondary sources you found, in the order you consulted them, and describe how you located them. Your description should be detailed enough to allow anyone who wishes to follow it to reach the same search results as you did. Provide a citation for each relevant source used.
- **Refine Research Strategy.** After your preliminary research, evaluate your strategy. If necessary, discuss how you plan to alter your approach. For example, by modifying your search terms, reframing the issues, and so forth.
- **Search for Primary Sources.** Indicate the cases you consulted and describe how you located them. Your description should be detailed enough to allow anyone who wishes to follow it to reach the same search results as you did. Include any steps you took to update your research.
- **Reflective Component.** Evaluate your overall legal research process and comment on:
  - any parts that you found challenging, including unsuccessful searches or steps;
  - thoughts on the authoritativeness of the secondary sources you consulted;
  - anything new that you learned about the research process; and
  - anything that you would do differently in the future.